(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) India has acceded to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on 11th December, 1992.

(b) and (c) There are several constitutional provisions and legislations that confer rights on children in India. These were in place even before accession to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Government reviews legislations and other programmes for children from time to time to fulfill their rights. Some of the recent legislations include the Constitution (86th Amendment) Act 2002 and Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act, 2000.

Urdu education in central schools

1174. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Schools which have provisions of Urdu education; State-wise; and

(b) the number of Urdu teachers engaged in these schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) There is a provision for teaching of regional languages including Urdu as the additional language in KendriyaVidyalayas if the number of students opting for such language is at least 20. A teacher is engaged on part time basis for this.

(b) Since no student has opted for learning of Urdu language in any of the Kendriya Vidyalayas therefore there are no Urdu teachers in KVS at present.

Number of children not going to school

†1175. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of children not going to school for getting

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

primary education at present;

(b) the number of boys and girls out of them;

(c) what are the reasons that these children are not going to school;

(d) what steps Government have taken for providing compulsory and free education to all the children between the age group of 6-14 years after making announcement in this regard; and

(e) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Based on the district plans submitted by the States for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, for the year 2003-04, it has been estimated that there are 2.38 crore children, in the age group 6-14 years, out of school at the beginning of year.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) Some important reasons for children not going to school according to National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-II (1998-99) are:

(i) Child not interested in studies/Education not being interesting enough,

(ii) Cost of education being too high,

(iii) need for children to work and/or look after siblings,

(iv) Non-availability of school within a reasonable distance especially for girls, and

(v) Repeated failures, early marriage, etc.

(d) and (e) Government has launched the programme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for providing eight years of quality education to all children by the year 2010.This is the second full year of the programme and it is too early to evaluate its effects at present. However, the number of out of school children has come down from 3.5 crore in 2001 to 2.38 crore this year.